Medical Reserve Corps

Emergency Sheltering





Presenters:

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Objectives

- 1. Describe shelter services and functions
- 2. Describe general shelter roles

Shelters Provide . . .

- Shelter . . . A roof overhead!
- Meals
- Assistance with medical equipment needs
- Place to charge their phone
- Assistance with prescriptions
- Referrals

No one is turned away:

- Everyone is welcome.
- Shelters are public spaces.
- Everyone is entitled to safety and protection.



Partner Services



- Health Dept: basic medical services, public health guidance
- Law Enforcement: security
- Emergency Management: coordination, resources
- Behavioral Health & Developmental Services: mental health
- Animal Care Organizations: pet shelters







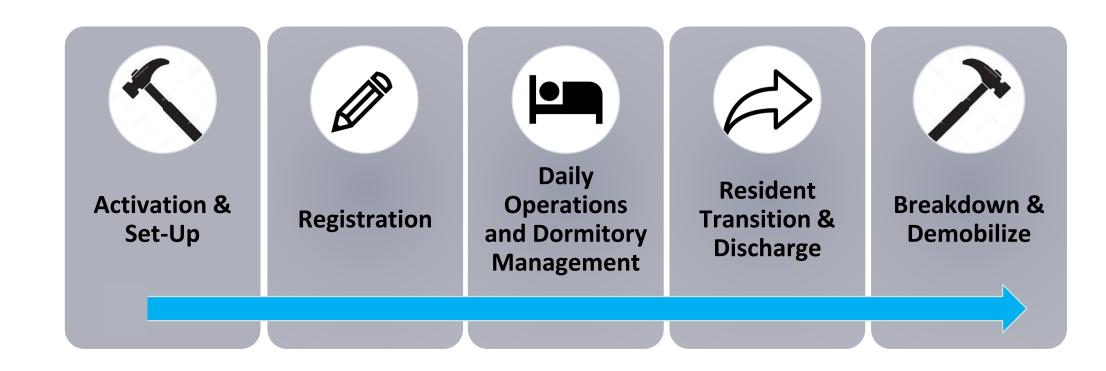
Congregate Sheltering

Plus



Non-Congregate Sheltering

Shelter Operations



Shelter Operations



Setting-Up the Shelter

- Staff are activated and deployed to the shelter site(s)
- First shift may help set up shelter
 - Command
 - Registration
 - Dormitory
 - Screening
 - Medical Area
 - Cafeteria
 - Pet
 - Other
- Shelter supplies may vary

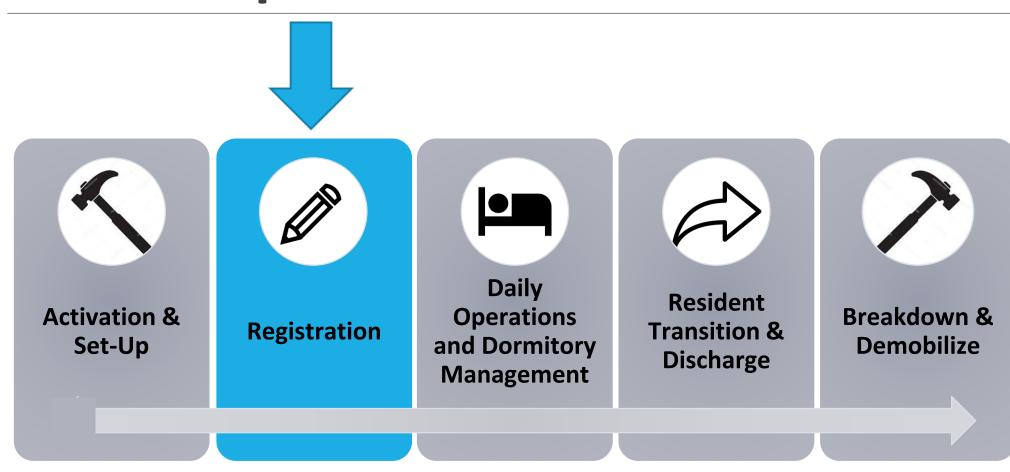


Registration

- Collect basic information; typically includes:
 - Name
 - Contact information
 - Allergies (food)
 - Other
- Assess immediate needs



Shelter Operations



Who's Coming?

Yes, Evacuees! Also . . .

- Staff and Volunteers
- Evacuees with service animals
- Evacuees with pets
- Media
- VIPs



Shelter Rules

- No Smoking
- No Weapons
- No Alcohol or Drugs
- Use of electronics
- Registered sex offenders

Reminders:

- Shelters are public, community spaces.
- Staff do not supervise residents' children.



SHELTER RULES

- NO SMOKING IN SHELTER SMOKING OUTSIDE IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY
- NO ALCOPOL OR DRUGS IN OR OUTSIDE SHELTER
- NO WEAPONS IN OR OUTSIDE SHELTER
- NO EATING IN SLEEPING AREA UNLESS YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS
- MEALS WILL BE SERVED AT THE TIMES POSTED IN THE DINING AREA.
- INFORMATION UPDATES WILL BE GIVEN AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE CHECK THE INFORMATION BOARD.
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES WILL BE IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS IN AND OUTSIDE THE SHELTER. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED.
- PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED. ALL PETS WILL BE HOUSED IN THE LOCAL PET EVACUATION SHELTER AND WILL BE REUNITED WITH YOU LATER. DAILY TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO VISIT YOUR PETS.
- PLEASE TREAT FELLOW RESIDENTS AND STAFF WITH RESPECT.
- PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR TEMPORARY HOME CLEAN BY PICKING UP AFTER YOURSELF AND CHILDREN.
- LIGHTS OUT IN SLEEPING AREA AT

Access and Functional Needs











People with

Disabilities



People Who Live in Institutional Settings















People of Low

Socioeconomic

Status

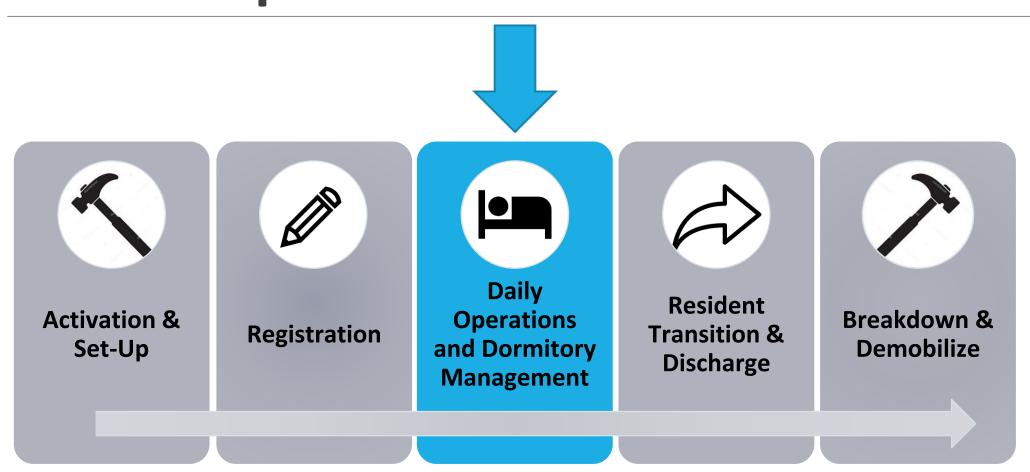


People with Pharmacological Dependency

People with Limited Access to Transportation

Limited English Proficiency/Non-**English Speakers**

Shelter Operations



Dorm Space

- Evacuees become "shelter residents" once registered.
- Staff may help residents find appropriate dormitory space based on their needs (electrical, restroom access, mobility, vision, etc.).

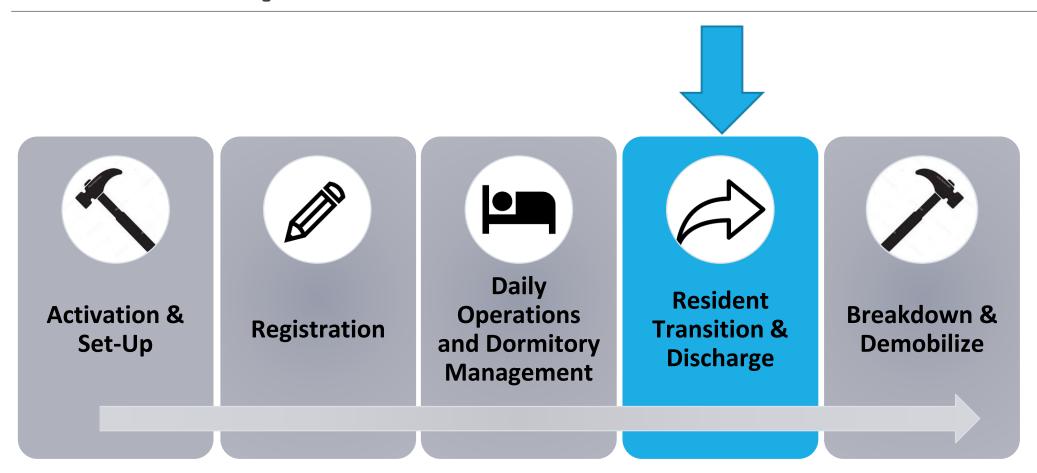




Dormitory Responsibilities

- Help residents know the facility and where thing are
- Answer questions, provide information, coordinate activities
- Maintain safety (e.g., aisles clear, access to fire exits, illness, etc.)
- Conduct resident head-counts
- Situational awareness: Circulate, "read the room," cleanliness, parental supervision, etc.
- Assist residents with tasks (e.g., meals delivered for those with limited mobility)
- Ensure shelter rules are followed
- Take notes, report incidents
- Problem-solve and take corrective action

Shelter Operations

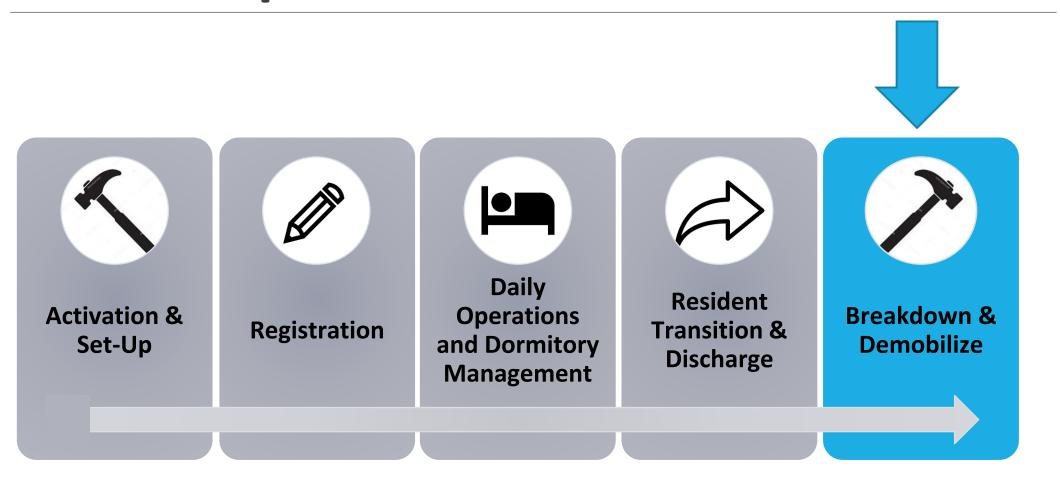


Discharge Procedures

- Where does resident intend to go
- Are there any transportation or other unmet emergency needs; if yes, refer them to transition services, DSS or other local resource.
- Paperwork may vary... some jurisdictions don't have a formal discharge process.



Shelter Operations



Shelter Break-down

- Clear remaining items in vacated residents' assigned area
- Pack supplies and equipment
- Conduct inventories as assigned
- Return site to its original condition



Shelter Roles





- Shelter Manager: Responsible for overall shelter management of all staff and residents; typically a DSS or Red Cross role.
- **Site Liaison:** Works with the Shelter Manager to set-up, operate, and break down the shelter with particular focus on available or potential local or site-specific resources; typically a facility staff person.

Shelter Role: General Support

- Register evacuees
- Anticipate and identify needs
- Provide assistance to shelter residents
- Assess needs and connect to services on site
- Solve problems and resolve issues



Other Shelter Roles

- Public Health: Oversees the medical area and services, including COVID-19 screening
- Behavioral Health: Supports emotional health of staff and residents
- **Emergency Management:** Process resource requests (typically off site)
- Law Enforcement: Oversees security, parking, safety for the shelter facility
- Animal Care: Directs and manages pet sheltering functions







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Objectives

- Detail Public Health and Medical roles and responsibilities within a Shelter Environment
- 2. Describe Guidance for Disaster Shelters during the COVID-19 Pandemic





Public Health's Role in Sheltering

VDH is Lead agency for public health/medical needs

- Coordinate public health, medical, and behavioral health services
- Collaborate with on-site shelter staff:
 - triage, first aid
 - health assessment
 - limited medication administration
 - case management

- environmental health services
- communicable disease prevention and control services
- WIC/nutrition services



Medical Needs Shelterees

- Shelterees who would need assistance during evacuation and sheltering due to healthcare or behavioral health issues that go beyond basic first aid.
- Not acutely ill (not requiring hospitalization); Has one or more medical and/or psychiatric condition that requires a level of medical care or assistance that exceeds what a general shelter may be able to provide.





Roles: VA Medical Reserve Corps



Community volunteers prepared to support ongoing public health initiatives and emergencies in localities throughout Virginia.



Volunteers Protecting Virginia's Health



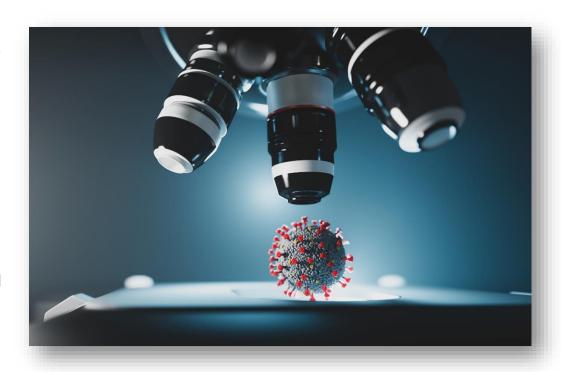
Roles: Epidemiologists/Communicable Disease Nurses

Surveillance

- Conduct surveillance and investigation for communicable diseases/conditions
- Monitor health status of shelterees

Disease Control

 Make and coordinate recommendations on prevention and control strategies in coordination with shelter management





Roles: Nurses/Clinicians

Public health nursing services include:

- first aid,
- health assessment and screening,
- limited medication administration assistance,
- case management.

VDH Shelter Training for Nurses On Demand (Course ID# 1086519) for More In-Depth Training





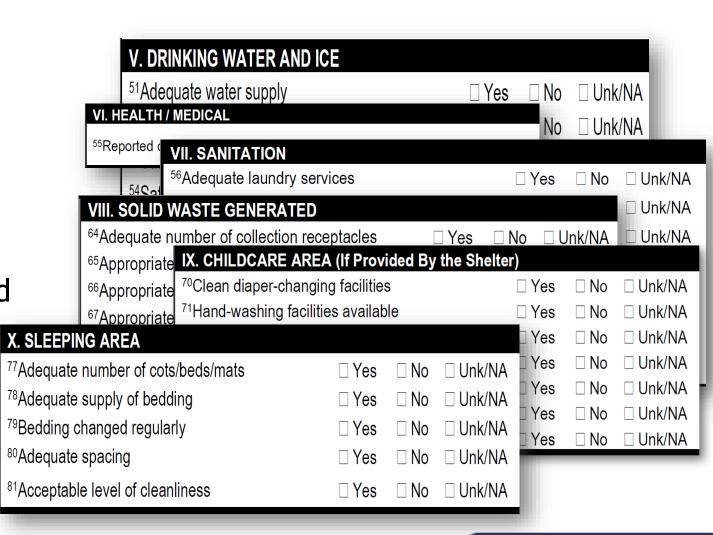
Roles: Environmental Health

- Inspect shelter facilities
- Ensures availability of potable water
- Conducts food safety inspections
- Food-borne outbreak investigations
- Guidance/services related to rabies in pet shelters

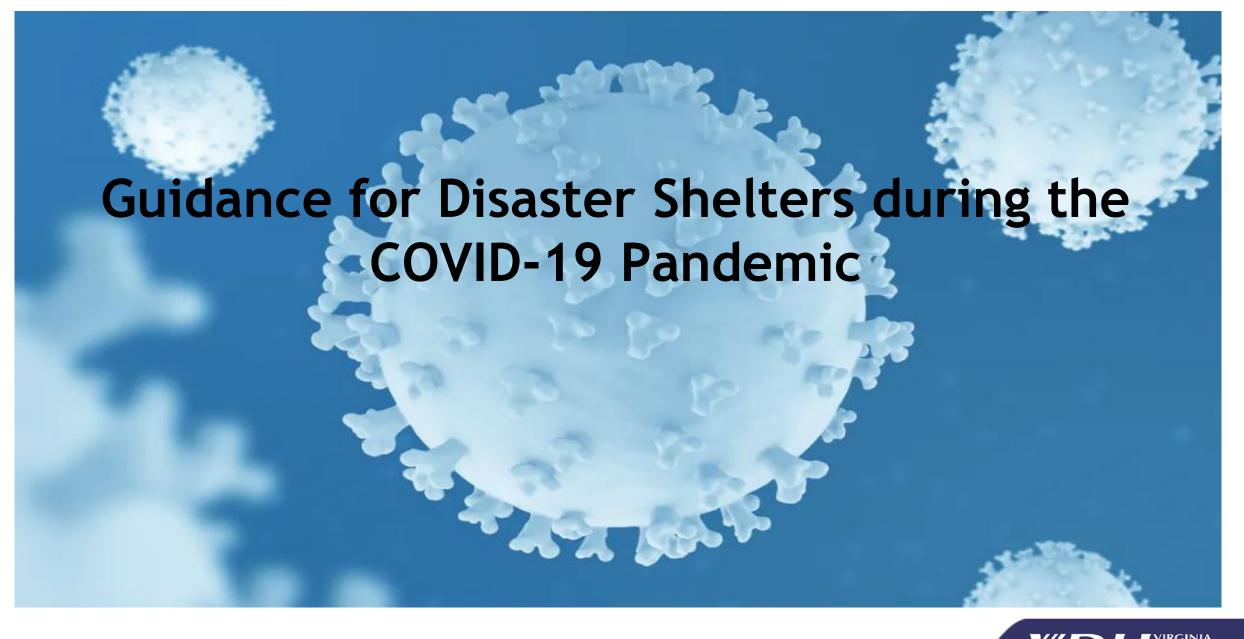


Environmental Health Assessment Form For Shelters

- V. Shelter Drinking Water and Ice
- VI. Shelter Health/Medical
- VII. Shelter Sanitation
- VIII. Shelter Solid Waste Generated
- IX. Shelter Childcare Area
- X. Shelter Sleeping Area









Guidance/Recommendations for Disaster Shelters during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- If available and reasonably practicable, non-congregate sheltering options (e.g., hotels, motels, or dormitories) should be used during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Shelter residents with a weakened immune system or families with young children under 12 who are not yet vaccinated should be prioritized for available non-congregate sheltering.
- Congregate shelter facilities should implement distancing among residents (at least six feet between cots of people from different households).



Guidance/Recommendations for Disaster Shelters during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Keep a distance of at least 6 feet between individuals from different households at all times
- Encourage consistent and correct mask or cloth face covering use
- rapidly identify, isolate, and test (when available) people with symptoms compatible with COVID19
- Promote frequent handwashing and good hygiene practices.

- Monitor body temperature for all persons entering the shelter
- Do NOT exclude people who are having symptoms or test positive for COVID19.
- quarantine after leaving the shelter in accordance with <u>VDH</u> recommendations. (those fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine.)

What to Expect in Deployment

- Personal Preparedness
- Austere Conditions
- May be deployed into an active disaster/emergency
- 12 hour shifts (*shift-rotation*)
- Lodging, dependent upon situation.
- Communication gaps
- Limited internet services
- Documentation is critical
- Working within the assignment scope
- Self Care is Key



If Deployed

- Remember you are part of a team
 - Support one another!
- Use your resources
 - Ask questions
 - Express needs and concerns timely
 - Communicate successes
- Make notes of lessons learned
- Pace yourself
 - Take time to unwind





Pre-Deployment Planning

- Arrange care for loved ones and pets
- Ensure bills and other financial matters are handled
- Clear personal calendar of appointments and other obligations
- Consult with your job regarding coverage in your absence
- Update emergency contact information and instructions





Personal items to Consider



- Boredom Busters (Headphones, music, cards, books, etc.)
- Comfortable shoes, change of clothing, jacket/sweater
- Sleeping Items
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Cell phone/charger
- Flashlight/extra batteries
- Rain boots/rain coat
- Snacks
- Medication



Best Laid Plans

- Constant Change
- Hurry up and wait
- What you do might be different
- Be flexible
- Be a problem solver
- Step up and do what's needed
- Rewarding work but challenging



Stress Relief





Team Players





Thank YOU

for choosing to volunteer with the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps!

YOU are the force multiplier that makes Virginia better prepared and resilient!



